

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a managing communication device;

a mobile node managed by the managing communication device; and

an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node,

the managing communication device releasing, with a movement of the mobile node managed, an older tunnel from a plurality of already established tunnels so as to prevent a number of all tunnels established between the communication device itself and accommodating communication device from exceeding a predetermined threshold value.

2. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the threshold value comprises a unique value to each mobile node.

3. (Currently Amended) A managing communication device which manages a mobile node, comprising:

means establishing, with a movement of the mobile node, a tunnel for transferring a communication packet with the mobile node to an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node at a moved destination; and

means controlling a number of a plurality of tunnels to be within a predetermined number.

4. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a managing communication device;

a plurality of mobile nodes managed by the managing communication device; and  
an accommodating device accommodating the mobile node,  
the managing communication device rejecting an establishment of a new tunnel  
when the new tunnel is required to be established with a movement of a single mobile node  
managed, a number of all tunnels presently established for all mobile nodes managed by the  
communication device itself exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and no tunnel  
corresponding to the single mobile node is established, and releasing an older tunnel from a  
plurality of already established tunnels corresponding to the single mobile node to establish the  
new tunnel when at least one tunnel corresponding to the single mobile node is established.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the mobile nodes are  
classified into a plurality of classes based on a plurality of threshold values, and the  
establishment of the new tunnel is rejected or executed based on the threshold value  
corresponding to the class to which the mobile node belongs.

6. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:  
a managing communication device;  
a plurality of mobile nodes managed by the managing communication device; and  
an accommodating communication device accommodating the mobile node,  
the managing communication device determining a lifetime, with a movement of  
the mobile node managed, of a tunnel established between the managing communication device  
itself and the accommodating communication device, so that when a number of all tunnels  
presently used is large the lifetime is shortened.

7. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the lifetime is notified to the mobile node.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication device comprising:

a tunnel number managing unit operable to manage ~~portion decreasing a number of tunnels for a mobile tunnel and to decrease the number of tunnels presently established upon timeout of a lifetime of a tunnel or release of a tunnel and to increase of a tunnel lifetime or a tunnel release and increasing~~ the number of tunnels presently established upon addition of a new tunnel; and

a controller operable to release ~~releasing a tunnel presently established before timeout of a lifetime of the tunnel in case of a value of the number of tunnels which is managed for the mobile terminal by the tunnel number managing unit or regulating a tunnel addition in case a value that is the tunnel number managed by the tunnel number managing portion plus a number of tunnels tunnels~~ to be added exceeds a predetermined threshold.

9. (Currently Amended) A tunnel number regulating method comprising the steps of:

decreasing a number of tunnels presently established ~~for a mobile terminal upon timeout of a lifetime of a tunnel or release of a tunnel managed by a tunnel number managing portion upon timeout of a tunnel lifetime or a tunnel release~~ and increasing the number of tunnels presently established upon addition of a new tunnel; and

releasing a tunnel presently established ~~before timeout of a lifetime of the tunnel in case a value of the number of tunnels which is managed for the mobile terminal or regulating a tunnel~~

addition in case a value that is the tunnel number managed by the tunnel number managing portion plus a number of tunnels to be added exceeds a predetermined threshold.

10. (New) A communication device comprising:

a tunnel number managing unit operable to manage a number of tunnels for a mobile terminal and to decrease the number of tunnels presently established upon timeout of a lifetime of a tunnel or release of a tunnel and to increase the number of tunnels presently established upon addition of a new tunnel; and

a controller operable to regulate a tunnel addition in case a value of the number of tunnels which is managed for the mobile terminal by the tunnel number managing unit plus a number of tunnels to be added exceeds a predetermined threshold.

11. (New) A tunnel number regulating method comprising steps of:

decreasing a number of tunnels presently established for a mobile terminal upon timeout of a lifetime of a tunnel or release of a tunnel and increasing the number of tunnels presently established upon addition of a new tunnel; and

regulating a tunnel addition in case a value of the number of tunnels which is managed for the mobile terminal plus a number of tunnels to be added exceeds a predetermined threshold.